

FEB 492

COUNTRY Hong Kong/Macao/China/USSR

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SUBJECT USSR Procurement of Tin in Hong Kong and Macao

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A  
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. Ivanchenko, El'sportkhleb representative in Hong Kong, who has been purchasing tin through the Yangtze Supply Corporation\*, has stated that the USSR wants all tin purchases and shipments handled secretly. This may be the result of the Soviet fear that if all tin purchases are made public, the Combined Tin Committee may take steps to control all tin passing through Hong Kong to make sure that none gets to the USSR.\*\*
2. During the first three quarters of 1949, only one tin shipment was recorded by the Hong Kong Government as having gone to the USSR. This amounted to 60 metric tons, and occurred during the second quarter. The company that sold the tin is reported to have informed the government of the sale, thereby occasioning some concern in the Yangtze Supply Corporation. Shipments to the USSR during the third quarter were not recorded by the Hong Kong Government.\*\*\* However, it is reported that a total of at least 200 tons of tin was purchased during this period, of which 40 tons was shipped. The remainder may either have been shipped or stored in warehouses. There was also a shipment which had a Hong Kong Government exchange surrender certificate with the destination given as a New York firm, but the tin was shipped to Chinnampo, North Korea, and did not appear in the Hong Kong Government trade figures for the third quarter of 1949. USSR tin shipments prior to 1 November 1949 had Chinese Government export permits. The Soviet vessels ALDAI, AZOV and AZAIKOSKY, were reported to have loaded tungsten and tin in Hong Kong and Macao.\*\*\*\*
3. The principal shipments of tin from Macao have gone to the USSR, which in 1948 received at least 800 tons from Macao. The leading firms making these shipments were the Yung Dah Company of Macao, the Sui Cheng International Trading Company of Hong Kong\*\*\*\*\* and the Hong Kong-Canton Export Company of Hong Kong.
4. The Yangtze Supply Company Corporation also handles tin shipments from Macao.

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\*\*\* Comment. Tungsten concentrate purchases have been made more  
openly. 25X1A

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25X1A \*\*\*\* Comment. [redacted] reports that in 1949 all shipments  
of tungsten and tin were made in Soviet vessels. [redacted]

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\*\*\*\*\*

Comment. [redacted] reported these two  
companies as the Hung, Lam Company and the Suicheng International  
Trading Company, Limited.

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